

REMARKS

Claims 14, 15, 18, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32 and 33 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 14 is amended. The amendment introduces no new matter because it is made to correct an informality. Claims 16, 17, 19, 23, 25, 27, 29 and 31 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. Reconsideration of the application based upon the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed below; (b) correct an informality in the claims; (c) cancel non-elected claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 5, rejects claims 14, 32 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP-A-2001-019560 to Takamitsu et al. (hereinafter "Takamitsu '560"). The Office Action, in paragraph 6, rejects claims 14, 32 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by JP-A-2002-020173 to Takamitsu et al. (hereinafter "Takamitsu '173"). The Office Action, in paragraph 7, rejects claims 14, 18, 32 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,725,567 to Yano et al. (hereinafter "Yano"). The Office Action, in paragraph 8, rejects claims 14, 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,388,345 to Brundage et al. (hereinafter "Brundage"). The Office Action, in paragraph 9, rejects claims 14, 18, 32 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,539,633 to Araya. The Office Action, in paragraph 11, rejects claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takamitsu '560 or Takamitsu '173 or Yano or Brundage or Araya. The

Office Action, in paragraph 12, rejects claims 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takamitsu '560 or Takamitsu '173 or Yano or Brundage or Araya in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,932,932 to Miura et al. (hereinafter "Miura") or JP-A-2001-130973 to Kazuya. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action, in paragraphs 4-9, asserts that the each of Takamitsu '560, Takamitsu '173, Yano, Brundage and Araya teach structures with features that are alleged to correspond to the combinations of all of the features recited in independent claim 14. These assertions are incorrect for at least the following reasons.

None of Takamitsu '560, Takamitsu '173, Yano, Brundage nor Araya, individually or in combination, teach the extent that any alleged guide covers any alleged outer wall as being in the range of 20 to 100% relative to the surface area of the entire outer wall, as positively recited in claim 14.

The Office Action, in paragraphs 4-9, asserts that the above-quoted feature is disclosed in each of Fig. 1 of Takamitsu '560, Fig. 4 of Takamitsu '173, Fig. 1 of Yano, Figs. 1a, 1b, 4a and 4b of Brundage and Figs. 1 and 2 of Araya. However, none of the figures cited by the Office Action teaches that any alleged guide is in the claimed range relative to the surface of the outer wall.

MPEP §2125 states "When the reference does not disclose that the drawings are to scale and is silent as to dimensions, arguments based on measurement of the drawing features are of little value." *Hockerson-Halberstadt, Inc. v. Avia Group Int'l*, 222 F.3d 951, 956, 55 USPQ2d 1487, 1491 (Fed. Cir. 2000). The MPEP section also notes that it is "well established that patent drawings do not define the precise proportions of the elements and may not be relied on to show particular sizes if the specification is completely silent on the issue" (emphasis added). The above-quoted feature recites specific dimensions of the guide covering the outer wall, which is not disclosed by any reasonable interpretation of the figures

in the applied references. As such, it is unreasonable to assert that any of the applied references anticipates at least this feature.

Neither Miura or Kazuya are applied in a manner to overcome the above-identified shortfalls in the application of each of Takamitsu '560, Takamitsu '173, Yano, Brundage and Araya to the subject matter of claim 14. As such, none of the applied references, in any permissible combination, would have rendered obvious at least the above-quoted feature recited in claim 14.

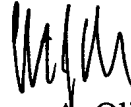
For at least the foregoing reasons, the applied references, individually or in combination, cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combination of all of the features recited in independent claim 14. Additionally, claims 15, 18, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32 and 33 are also neither taught, nor would they have been suggested, by the applied references for at least the respective dependence of these claims, directly or indirectly, on an allowable base claim, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 14, 15, 18, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b), 102(e) or 103(a), as being anticipated by, or unpatentable over, any combination of the applied references, are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 14, 15, 18, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32 and 33 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: August 31, 2007

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